

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 24. *cancelled*

25. (*currently amended*) In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server that stores messages and a message notification server that notifies a subscriber device of a message stored in the voicemail server by initiating a voicemail status call to the subscriber callback, the improvement comprising:

multiple mailbox partitions formed within the voicemail server and associated with a single telephone line of the network,

respective unique IDs associated with respective ones of the multiple mailbox partitions, and

a controller that stores a voicemail message in a partition associated with one of the unique IDs and that effects transmission of a change in voicemail status ~~stored in a partition associated with one of the unique IDs~~ during the message notification server-initiated voicemail status call.

26. (*currently amended*) The improvement of claim 25, wherein the ~~controller~~ transmits transmitted voicemail status message includes one of multiple unique ~~caller~~ IDs so as to identify a specific partition of the multiple mailbox partitions having a new voicemail message.

27. (*currently amended*) In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server and a call-back message notification server, the improvement comprising:

a controller of said message notification server that automatically effects a voicemail status call to a subscriber device in response to one of receipt of a new voicemail message for the subscriber, a change in message status, and a lapse of a predetermined period of time since a receiving a prior call at the voicemail server from the subscriber to retrieve messages.

28. (currently amended) In a telephone network that includes a voicemail server that stores messages and a message notification server that notifies a subscriber device of a message stored in the voicemail server by initiating a voicemail status call to the subscriber callback, the improvement comprising:

at least one unique assigned ID number associated with the status of messages of at said voicemail server for that subscriber, and

a controller responsive to the subscriber a ~~CPE~~ device to transmit the a unique ID number for that subscriber during the voicemail status call, according to the status of messages for that subscriber at of said voicemail server.

29. (currently amended) The improvement of claim 28, wherein a first one unique ID number is transmitted when a new voicemail message is present for the subscriber and a second another unique ID number is transmitted when no voicemail message is present for the subscriber.

30. (currently amended) The improvement of claim 28, wherein each unique ID number comprises a caller-ID number for display on the subscriber device.